

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims according to the following directions. Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application with the following list of claims:

1-128. (cancelled)

129. (currently amended) A method for ~~booking reservations on a plurality of~~ utilizing private aircraft as a public passenger service, comprising:

receiving an availability information including predetermined reservation criteria for each of several unscheduled for at least one private privately owned aircraft, said reservation criteria including a departure location, a departure time constraint, a minimum number of passengers, and a minimum total payment required to reserve the private aircraft;

posting via a computer network the availability information on an electronic medium;

receiving reservation bids from a plurality of independent passengers, each of the reservation bids including a specific destination request and a payment offer;

selecting a number of the received reservation bids, wherein the selected bids collectively ~~satisfy match said a predetermined set of reservation criteria for the an identified private aircraft, said reservation criteria including a departure location, a set of rules identifying possible destination locations, a departure time constraint, and a minimum total payment required to reserve the private aircraft;~~

accepting the selected reservation bids;

communicating to each of the independent passengers associated with the selected bids a first notification of the acceptance.

communicating to an owner of the identified private aircraft a second notification of the acceptance;

transmitting to the owner of the identified private aircraft a ~~final~~ passenger list corresponding to the selected reservation bids and a ~~final~~ flight schedule that is substantially consistent with the departure time constraint, the departure location, and the specific destination request; and

~~flying the scheduling a flight for the identified private aircraft substantially according to the final flight schedule.~~

130-139. (canceled)

140. (currently amended) A ~~reservation system~~ for utilizing private aircraft as a public passenger service, comprising:

a reservation service operated by a reservation service owner;

~~an a plurality of unscheduled airplanes, each owned and~~ operated by a private airplane owner, ~~said each airplane owner independent of another such airplane owner and independent of said reservation service owner;~~

said reservation service to receive electronically from ~~said each~~ airplane owner a flight availability ~~for said airplane, each of said flight availability~~ availabilities including a departure location, ~~a set of rules identifying a list of possible destination locations,~~ a departure time constraint, and a minimum total payment ~~required to reserve said airplane,~~ said minimum total payment expressed as a function of available seats and price per seat;

said reservation service to post via a computer network each of said flight availability availabilities on an electronic medium;

said reservation service to receive reservation bids electronically from a plurality of independent passengers, said passengers independent of said reservation service owner and said airplane owners, each of said reservation bids including a specific destination request and a payment offer;

said reservation service ~~to reserve said flight availability and to accept a selected number of said reservation bids and to reserve a matching flight availability if the selected number collectively satisfies the minimum total payment, departure location, and if the destination location, and departure time constraints associated with said matching flight availability requests collectively match the set of rules identifying possible destination locations;~~

said reservation service to transmit a notification of said reserved flight availability to the owner of said airplane ~~owner~~ associated with said reserved flight availability;

said reservation service to transmit a notification of said acceptance to each of the passengers associated with the accepted reservation bid;

said reservation service to transmit electronically to ~~said airplane owner~~ the owner of said airplane associated with said reserved flight availability a ~~final~~ passenger list and a ~~final~~ flight schedule that is substantially consistent with said departure time constraints, said departure location, and said destination location;

said reservation service to schedule a flight for the airplane substantially according to the flight schedule;

said airplane to fly a flight substantially according to said ~~final~~ flight schedule;

said reservation service to collect a payment from each of the passengers, said payment corresponding to said payment offer; and

said reservation service to transfer said collected payment to ~~said airplane owner~~ owner of said airplane associated with said reserved flight availability.

141. (previously presented) The ~~reservation system~~ of claim 140, further comprising:

said reservation service to terminate one of said flight availability-availabilities and to ~~refuse said reservation bids~~ if said reservation service fails to match a number of reservation bids with said flight availability such that said minimum total payment requirement is met.